

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2192

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ON OPIUM SITUATION

1. YUKSEL SOYLEMEZ, HEAD

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS, CALLED DCM SPAIN TO FOREIGN OFFICE LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 22. HE EXPLAINED ORIGINAL INTENTION HAD BEEN TO CALL AMBASSADOR, BUT, OUT OF FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT, HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED INSTEAD TO CARRY OUT WITH SPAIN, A DIFFICULT TASK. UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES, HE WISHED TO COMMUNICATE FOLLOWING MESSAGE.

2. IN VIEW OF STATEMENTS MADE BY CONGRESSMEN RANGEL AND WOLFF WHO RECENTLY VISITED TURKEY FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ON MARCH 18-19, THE FOREIGN MINISTER FEELS THAT BOTH CONGRESSMAN RANGEL AND CONGRESSMAN WOLFF HAVE UNFORTUNATELY MISUSED THE FRIENDLY HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO THEM BY TURKISH OFFICIAL CIRCLES. AS THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IS WELL AWARE, FORMIN GUNES HAS MADE NO STATEMENT TO VISITING CONGRESSMEN CONCERNING THE VALIDITY OF THE SO-CALLED AGREEMENT. IT IS THE TURKISH VIEW THAT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT TO BE KEPT IN FORCE.

3. IT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED TO THE UNITED STATES BOTH IN ANKARA AND IN WASHINGTON THAT THE ACTUAL BAN ON OPIUM SHALL NOT CONTINUE UNDER ITS PRESENT
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FRAMEWORK. (NOTE: SEE PARA 3E, ANKARA 1530). IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO

ACCEPT ANY ASSUMPTION THAT FORMIN GUNES HAS TAKEN AN OFFICIAL DECISION AND MADE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT IN A PRIVATE INTERVIEW. IT IS SURPRISING THAT THE TURKISH POSITION ALREADY MADE KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ON A PRIOR OCCASION WAS NOT BROUGHT TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TWO CONGRESSMEN BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ANKARA.

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TOTALLY REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE AMERICAN CLAIM THAT 80 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN IMPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES IF OF TURKISH ORIGIN. IF SIMILAR RECRIMINATIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE, TURKEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE LIBERTY TO ACT LIKEWISE, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY.

5. IT IS REGRETABLE TO SAY THE LEAST THAT THESE TWO CONGRESSMEN IN A GREAT MEASURE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY HAVE RECRIMINATED TURKISH POLITICAL LEADERS WITH DEMAGOGUERY IN AN OFFICIAL PLACE LIKE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6. THIS SITUATION UNFORTUNATELY DIMINISHES THE POSSIBILITY OF HELPING TO AVOID STATEMENTS OF SIMILAR NATURE IN THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, FONMIN GUNES FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FACILITATE RECIPROCAL VISITS OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE AND INTENDS TO ASK THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOT TO EXTEND ANY INVITATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, NO SPECIAL TREATMENT WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS EXCEPT THEIR STATUS AS ORDINARY TOURISTS.

7. ALTHOUGH TURKEY KNOWS THAT THE U.S. IS WELL AWARE THAT TURKEY IS NOT GOING TO USE ANY WEAPONS OTHER THAN FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD WILL TOWARDS THE U.S., STRANGELY ENOUGH THESE TWO CONGRESSMEN DO NOT SHARE THIS ATTITUDE.

8. OBVIOUSLY NO OFFICIAL VALUE WILL BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE STATEMENTS MADE BY CONGRESSMEN RANGEL
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AND WOLFF. OBVIOUSLY, TURKEY IS NOT GOING TO READJUST ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

9. COMMENT: SPAIN REPLIED THAT SINCE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF THE STATEMENTS BY CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL TO WHICH THE FORMIN REFERRED, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESPOND AT THE MOMENT, HE WOULD SAY ONLY THAT HE CONSIDERED THIS MESSAGE "VERY STRONG

MEDICINE" AND THAT HE THOUGHT IT INTRODUCED A NEW AND BITTER ELEMENT INTO THE TURKISH-AMERICAN DIALOGUE. AFTER STUDYING AND DISCUSSING THE MATTER HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH SOYLEMEZ AGAIN.

10. IN "PERSONAL COMMENTARY," SOYLEMEZ INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT (A) FORMIN'S MESSAGE WAS PRIVATE AND WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC; AND (B) THAT FORMIN'S REFERRAL TO "NO SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR CONGRESSMEN" APPLIED ONLY TO THOSE CONGRESSMEN WHO CAME TO TALK ABOUT THE OPIUM QUESTION AND NOT TO ALL VISITING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS; (C) THAT THE FORMIN WAS "VERY DEEPLY DISTURBED", (D) HIS LAST STATEMENT ON ATTRIBUTING "NO OFFICIAL VALUE" TO THE CONGRESSMEN'S STATEMENT MEANT THAT HE WAS NOT CONSIDERING THEM TO BE A STATEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL USG POSITION.

11. ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE SEND IMMEDIATELY TEXT OF CONGRESSMAN RANGEL'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 18 AND CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S OF MARCH 19, SO THAT WE CAN FORMULATE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. MACOMBER

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